
A Bill In Support of Positive Steps Toward a Negotiated Israeli-Palestinian Peace

Authored By Senator Lurie
Sponsored By Senator Lurie

WHEREAS, the UC Berkeley “Principles of Community” are intended to ensure “freedom of expression and dialogue that elicits the full spectrum of views held by our varied communities, [1]” and,

WHEREAS, the UC Berkeley “Principles of Community” call on students to “respect the differences as well as the commonalities that bring us together” and calls for “civility and respect,” [1] and,

WHEREAS, UC Berkeley students have a longstanding tradition of examining critical issues of our time thoroughly and honestly, appreciating the complexity and nuances of world affairs, along with a responsibility to place our discussions in a clear and accurate contextual and historical framework [2]; and,

WHEREAS, both the Jewish people and the Palestinian people have historical and cultural ties to the land; and,

WHEREAS, both the Jewish and Palestinian narratives regarding the land are substantial parts of each group’s self-identity; and,

WHEREAS, both Israelis and Palestinians have suffered as a result of the ongoing Arab-Israeli conflict; and,

WHEREAS, death and suffering on either side is equally unacceptable; and both Israelis and Palestinians must take reasonable measures to end that suffering; and,

WHEREAS, all peoples have the right to self-determination in their respective homelands; and,

WHEREAS, at the Annapolis Conference in November 2007, three major parties — the PLO, Israel, and the USA — agreed on a two-state solution as the outline for negotiations [3]; and,

WHEREAS, President Obama has declared “a lasting peace will involve two states for two peoples: Israel as a Jewish state and the homeland for the Jewish people, and the state of Palestine as the homeland for the Palestinian people, each state enjoying self-determination, mutual recognition, and peace” [4] and,

WHEREAS, the leader of the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) movement Omar Barghouti has explicitly stated that his end goal is a one-state solution to replace a Jewish homeland [5]; and,

WHEREAS, the Simon Wiesenthal Center states: “BDS is fueled by and reinforces a one-sided historical narrative denying any responsibility of Palestinian, Arab, and Muslim

‘rejectionists’ for destroying chances for peace and reconciliation—from before Israel’s establishment in 1948, to the 1980 Egyptian-Israeli Peace Treaty, to the 1993 Oslo Accords, to the 2000-2001 Camp David and Wye Summits, to the 2005 Israeli withdrawal from Gaza, and to this very day;” [6] and,

WHEREAS, Elie Wiesel, Holocaust survivor and renowned Nobel Peace Laureate, has condemned the BDS movement as “inappropriate and unjust” [7]; and,

WHEREAS, Richard Goldstone, chair of the U.N. fact-finding mission on the Gaza conflict, stated “those who conflate the situations in Israel and the West Bank and liken both to the old South Africa do a disservice to all who hope for justice and peace [8];” and,

WHEREAS, the BDS movement denies Israel’s right to exist as a Jewish state, disregards the Jewish historical narrative, and fabricates accusations of apartheid; and,

WHEREAS, The Center for Jewish-Arab Economic Development (CJAED) is founded on the guiding principle that “economic cooperation in Israel is essential for peace, prosperity and economic stability in Israel and the region at large [9];” and,

WHEREAS, New Generation Technology (NGT) is a “project in Israel that is a pure, true partnership between Jewish and Arab businessmen in Israel; [10]” and,

WHEREAS, The Palestine International Business Forum (PIBF) holds that Palestinian private sector development is one of the core pillars to creating economic stability, increasing employment and improving standards of living as well as fighting poverty thus contributing to a sustainable solution of the conflict [11]; therefore,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the ASUC supports a peaceful resolution to the Arab-Israeli conflict through direct negotiations between the Palestinians and Israelis; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that rather than divesting funds, the ASUC will instruct the managers of the Boston Trust to seek investment opportunities that strengthen Israeli-Palestinian cooperation such as those outlined in this bill; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the ASUC calls upon the EAVP to write a letter to the other universities of the UC system suggesting they adopt a similar resolution;

1. <http://www.berkeley.edu/about/principles.shtml>

2. Smelko, Will ASUC Presidential Veto II, dated March 24th, 2010

3. <http://www.haaretz.com/news/israel-pa-agree-to-strive-for-deal-by-end-of-2008-1.234086>

4. <http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2011/05/19/remarks-president-middle-east-and-north-africa>

5. <http://www.cjaed.org.il/Index.asp?CategoryID=98>

6. <http://www.algemeiner.com/2013/03/19/simon-wiesenthal-center-report-bds-a-thinly-veiled-anti-israel-and-anti-semitic-poison-pill/>

7. Wiesel, Elie Letter 2010

8. <http://www.nytimes.com/2011/11/01/opinion/israel-and-the-apartheid-slander.html>

9. <http://www.cjaed.org.il/Index.asp?CategoryID=98>

10. <http://israel21c.org/social-action-2/ten-top-israeli-business-ventures-that-inspire-peace-in-the-middle-east/>

11. <http://www.pibf.net/about-2/declaration-of-principles/>